

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for entering the Amendment filed March 6, 2006.

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 10, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraphs, the claims have been amended to avoid the rejection. For this reason, it is requested that these rejections not be applied against the amended claims. Claim 10 has been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggestion that the expression RO from claim 12 be used to point out the invention and Claim 11 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to point out that the percentages are based in mass % as pointed out in the example of the specification and to insert RO and the particular metals that R represents to provide a proper antecedent basis for claim 10. This amendment is based on the original specification at page 12, third full paragraph. The range of the RO oxides in amended claim 1 is based on the specification at page 12, third full paragraph. For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

A Terminal Disclaimer is attached to this amendment in order to obviate the basis for the double patenting rejection.


For the record, the applicant wishes to point out that the lower limit of 6% of RO distinguishes the disclosure of JP11-100230 from the claims. In the glass-ceramics of the present invention, RO ingredients are important as those ingredients improve the melting properties of the base glass and the optical homogeneity of the glass-ceramics without impairing transparency. To secure these results, an amount of RO should be 6 mass% or greater should be added. JP-11-10023 does not address the melting or the homogeneity properties of the disclosed compositions. In addition, transmittance at 500nm (visible ray) in the glass of JP11-100230 is 5% or lower whereas transmittance in the vicinity of 500nm in the glass-ceramics of examples of the present invention is about 80%. From these transmittance values, one skilled in the art will appreciate the differences in transparency between the glass-ceramics of the present invention and the glass of JP11-100230.

U.S. 4,835,121 does not disclose a minimum amount of 6% for the RO content of the disclosed compositions. For this reason, the claims of the present application distinguish the claimed subject matter of the present application from the disclosure of U.S. 4,835,121.

The subject matter of U.S. 5,972,815 has been distinguished from the amended claims by the exclusion of the word "substantially".

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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